Message Text

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SUBJECT: SOMALI GOVERNMENT CHANGES

REFERENCES: MOGADISCIO 1799 (1974) MOGADISCIO 1791 (1974)

1. SUMMARY: GSDR DECEMBER 31 ANNOUNCEMENT ON FUNCTIONS OF NEWLY-FORMED SUPREME REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (SRC) COMMITTEENS (REFTELS) WOULD APPEAR TO RE-EMPHASIZE SUBORDINATION OF THE MINISTRIES RUN BY MAINLY WESTERN-EDUCATED TECHNICIANS TO THE MILITARY OFFICERS WHO MADE THE REVOLUTION AND CONSTITUTE SRC. DIVISION OF POLITICAL AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE PROMOTES SIAD LOYALIST AND REDUCES FUNCTIONS OF ONE OF MOST INDEPENDENT-MINDED SRC MEMBERS. SUPERVISION OF POLICE ENTRUSTED TO SECURITY COMMITTEE HEADED BY SOVIET-ORIENTED DEFENSE MINISTER. END SUMMARY.

2. DECEMBER 31 ANNOUNCEMENT LISTED MINISTRIES SUBORDINATE TO EACH SRC COMMITTEE. IT SAID SRC COMMITTEES WOULD DRAW UP PLANS FOR MINISTRIES UNDER THEIR SUPERVISION, MADE SURE THESE MINISTRIES FULFILLED THESE PLANS, HAVE FULL POWERS TO CONFIDENTIAL

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INTERVENE IN THE MINISTRIES, MAKE ANNOUNCED AND UNANNOUNCED

INSPECTIONS OF THEM, AND "TAKE RELEVANT MEASURES IF SO COMPELLED" BY FAILURE OF ANY ORGAN TO PERFORM ITS DUTIES ADEQUATELY. COMMITTEES ARE TO MEET AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK.

- 3. ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD APPEAR TO BE STEP TOWARD ASSURING THAT SRC COMMITTEES WILL BE MEANINGFUL SUPERVISORY BODIES. THERE HAD BEEN SOME DOUBT ABOUT THIS--THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, FOR INSTANCE, TOLD US DEC. 30 THAT THESE COMMITTEES WOULD HAVE NO FRINO SUPERVISORY FUNCTIONS--AND IT IS PROBABLY STILL TOO EARLY TO REACH FIRM CONCLUSIONS AS TO HOW THINGS WILL WORK OUT.
- 4. SOCIALIST-MINDED "ADVISORS" TO COMMITTEES APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN GIVEN A BOOST. THEY ARE TO PARTICIPATE IN COMMITTEE MEETINGS, RESOLUTIONS AND DEBATES, EVEN THOUGH SRC COMMITTEE MEMBERS CAN MEET WITHOUT ADVISORS "IF NECESSARY". HERE TOO, HOWEVER, MUCH WILL DEPEND UPON HOW THINGS WORK OUT IN PRACTICE.
- 5. POLITICAL AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE HAS BEEN DIVIDED INTO POLITICAL COMMITTEE UNDER VP ABOKOR, WITH POLITICAL OFFICE CHAIRMAN ABDULCADIR AS MEMBER AND FORMER HIGHER EDUCATION SECRETARY MOHAMED ADEN AS ADVISOR, WD SOCIAL COMMITTEE WITH LTC ABDIRAZAK AS CHAIRMAN AND ABDI WARSAMA AND OMAR JESS AS MEMBERS. POLITICAL COMMITTEE HAS RESPONDSIBILITY FOR MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND POLITICAL OFFICE. ONE OF ITS TASKS IS "PREPARATION OF RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR A SOCIALIST PARTY, GIVING DUE CONSIDERATION TO THE NATION'S CULTURE AND TRADITIONS". SOCIAL COMMITTE HANDLES EDUCATION MINISTRIES, HEALTH, LABOR AND SPORT, AND INTERIOR. SPLIT IN POLITICAL AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPRESENTS DOWNGRADING FOR ITS FORMER HEAD, ABOKOR, AN OUTSPOKEN NORTHERNER, AND PROMOTION FOR SOCIAL COMNVTTEE HEAD ABDIRAZAK-- AN INDIVIDUAL KNOWN FOR HIS LOYALTY TO PRESIDENT SIAD.
- 6. DEFENSE SECRETARY SAMANTAR, SRC MEMBER MOST CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH SOVIETS, APPEARS TO HAVE HAD HIS POWER FURTHER ENHANCED BY INCLUSION OF POLICE AND CUSTODIAL FORCES UNDER JURISDICTION OF HIS COMMITTEE (RATHER THAN SOCIAL COMMITTEE WHICH SUPERVISES MINISTRY OF INTERIOR OR JUSTICE COMNITTEE WHICH RUNS THE COURTS). THIS PUTS ALL THOSE BEARING ARMS--MILITARY, CONFIDENTIAL

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POLICE, NSS-UNDER SAMANTAR.

7. SRC MEMBER MOHAMED SHEIKY OSMAN, WHO WAS ALLEGEDLY DISSATISFIED WITH HIS STATUS AS ONE MEMBER OF ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, IS NOW TO BE "ASSISTANT" TO SIAD. IT IS NOT RPT NOT YET CLEAR HOW IMPORTANT THIS POSITION WILL BE. KIRK

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